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Towards global partnerships

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Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003 and 60/215 of 22 December 2005,

Reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Mindful of the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations and the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to sustainable development, the elimination of poverty and respect for human rights,

Recalling that partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits,

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Recalling also the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] notably the Millennium Development Goals, and the reaffirmation they have received in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and can make concrete contributions to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the other goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Underlining also the importance of the contribution of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing the need to increase the capacity of Governments at the municipal, local and national levels to implement public-private partnerships successfully,

Acknowledging the importance of partnerships as a way to advance action on clean energy and climate change,

Welcoming, in this regard, the participation of civil society and private-sector entities in the multi-stakeholder consultations on financing for development, whose findings were presented at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York on 23 and 24 October 2007,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other diseases,

Welcoming the efforts and encouraging further efforts by all relevant partners, including the private sector, to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process and to take into account not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings and, in general, towards accepting and implementing the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing social values and responsibilities to bear on a conduct and policy premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Welcoming also the continuous efforts by the Commission on Sustainable Development and its secretariat to promote partnerships for sustainable development, inter alia, through the implementation and expansion of an interactive online database as a platform to provide access to information on partnerships and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices and through the regular holding of partnership fairs during the sessions of the Commission,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the work of the United Nations on partnerships, notably in the framework of various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, in particular the Global Compact, launched by the Secretary-General, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development[3] and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and welcoming the establishment of a multitude of partnerships at the field level, entered into by various United Nations agencies, non-public partners and Member States, such as the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development,

Expressing in this regard support for the work undertaken by the Global Compact Office,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector;[4]

2. *Recognizes* that today's partnerships complement the work of the United Nations in all areas, including in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and humanitarian relief efforts;

3. *Stresses* that partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national development strategies and plans, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place, bearing in mind the relevant guidance provided by Governments;

4. *Recalls* that the 2005 World Summit welcomed the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes, and also recalls that the 2005 World Summit resolved to enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, and encouraged public-private partnerships in the following areas: the generation of new investments and employment, financing for development, health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

5. *Recognizing* the role that public-private partnerships can play in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, the need to ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies and the need for effective accountability and transparency in their implementation;

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[3] See A/62/89-E/2007/76, annex.

[4] A/62/341.

6. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in addressing the challenges of development in the context of globalization, and notes with appreciation the efforts by the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy in this regard;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to develop, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach, based on a coherent strategy for its engagement with the private sector that places greater emphasis on impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, and with due consideration being given to the following partnership principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, sectoral and geographic balance, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system in general and the agencies in particular;

8. *Also encourages* responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations to mainstream in its own operations the principles of the Global Compact, including procurement practices, pension fund policies and facilities management;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcomes of the second Global Compact Leaders Summit held in Geneva on 5 and 6 July 2007;

11. *Welcomes* the partnerships launched during the Global Compact Leaders Summit in the areas of climate change, water management, investment and management education;

12. *Recognizes* that the Global Compact is an innovative public-private partnership with a governance, support and funding structure specifically tailored to the diversity of its stakeholders and its mission to advance United Nations values among the global business community, including through an increasing number of local networks;

13. *Encourages* further work on public-private partnerships by the relevant United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives, and that adequate training on public-private partnerships be made available as appropriate;

14. *Also encourages* the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, as well as the Global Compact Office, to share relevant lessons learned and positive experiences from partnerships, including with the business community, as a contribution to the development of more effective United Nations partnerships, and recognizes the work already undertaken by the Global Compact Office as a focal point for such activities;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations on how best to support the mandate and structure of the Global Compact Office to enable it to continue to fulfil its tasks in accordance with the goals and purposes of the present resolution, taking into account that the Global Compact Office has shown itself to

be uniquely positioned and capable of leading efforts to develop more strategic and effective relationships with the private sector;

16. *Takes note* of the actions taken by the various United Nations organizations, agencies, funds, programmes, task forces, commissions and initiatives to enhance partnership management through the promotion of adequate training at all concerned levels, institutional capacity in country offices, strategic focus and local ownership, the sharing of best practices, the improvement of partner selection processes and the streamlining of United Nations guidelines for partnerships between the United Nations and all relevant partners, including the private sector;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to promote, within existing resources, impact-assessment mechanisms of public-private partnerships, taking into account best tools available, in order to enable effective management, ensure accountability and facilitate effective learning from both successes and failures;

18. *Welcomes* innovative approaches to use partnerships as a means to better implement goals and programmes, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty, and encourages relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to further explore such possibilities, bearing in mind their different mandates, modes of operation and objectives, as well as the particular roles of the non-public partners involved;

19. *Recommends*, in this context, that partnerships should also foster the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of race and gender, in respect of employment and occupation;

20. *Reiterates its call upon*:

(a) All bodies within the United Nations system that engage in partnerships to ensure the integrity and independence of the Organization and to include information on partnerships in their regular reporting, as appropriate, on their websites and through other means;

(b) Partners to provide to and exchange relevant information with Governments, other stakeholders and the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations with which they engage, in an appropriate way, including through reports, with particular attention to the importance of sharing among partnerships information on their practical experience;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.